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Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-third session
2-13 March 2009

Draft report

Rapporteur: Cécile **Mballa Eyenga** (Cameroon)

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its fifty-third session at United Nations Headquarters from 2 to 13 March 2009. The Commission held _____ meetings (1st to __).

2. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the Commission, Olivier Belle (Belgium), who also made a statement.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 2 March 2009, statements were made by the Deputy Secretary-General, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

4. At the 5th meeting, on 4 March, statements were made by the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

5. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women made a presentation and responded to comments and questions posed by the representatives of Croatia, Turkey, Malaysia, Ecuador and the United States of America, as well as by the observers for Switzerland, the Czech Republic (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and Argentina.

6. At the 10th meeting, on 6 March, a statement was made by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

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B. Attendance

7. The session was attended by representatives of __ States members of the Commission. Observers of other States Members of the United Nations and of non-Member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.

C. Officers of the Commission

8. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, the officers are elected to the Bureau of the Commission for a term of office of two years. The following officers elected were elected to the Bureau of the fifty-second and fifty-third sessions:

Chairperson:
Olivier Belle (Belgium)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Ara Margarian (Armenia)
Enna Park (Republic of Korea)
Julio Peralta (Paraguay)

Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur:
Cécile Mballa Eyenga (Cameroon)

D. Agenda and organization of work

9. At its 1st meeting, on 2 March, the Commission adopted its agenda and approved its organization of work as contained in document E/CN.6/2009/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS;
      (ii) Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-third session.

Participation of the Cook Islands and Niue as observers at the fifty-third session of the Commission

10. Also at the 1st meeting, following a statement made by the Secretary of the Commission and further to the requests of the Cook Islands and Niue to participate as observers at the fifty-third session of the Commission, the Commission decided to invite the Cook Islands and Niue, in accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, to take part in the fifty-third session as Observers.

11. Statements were made by the observer for Argentina and the Secretary of the Commission.

E. Appointment of the members of a working group on communications on the status of women

12. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed to the working group of the fifty-third session:

Janine Elizabeth Coye-Felson (Belize)
Asif Garayev (Azerbaijan)
Ana Jimenez (Spain)
Palesa Joyce Liphoto (Lesotho)
Fuzuki Nomura (Japan)